

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01346 131209Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /115 W
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P R 131035Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 782
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1346

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, PERP, LE, TC
SUBJ: ARAFAT VISIT AND PRESS CONFERENCE

1. UAE PRESIDENT SAHIKH ZAYID RECEIVED MORNING MAY 11 AT HIS VACATION RESIDENCE ON SIR BANI YAO ISLAND PLO LEADER YASIR ARAFAT. LATTER ACCOMPANIED BY EHALID AL-HAASAN AND MAHMOUD ABBAS OF FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN RIYAD UNBI OWW IN SHAAIFI, AND CIBHI HALLOUM, PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN UAR. HALLOUM'S PREDECESSOR, IBRAHIM ZARD, ALSO PRESENT BUT NOT MENTIONED IN PRESS REPORTS. AFTER JZJWSWCP#ARAFAT TOLD PRESS THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS
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PAGE 02 ABU DH 01346 131209Z

WITH ZAYID HAD BEEN "SUCCESSFUL AND FRUITFUL" AND THAT UAE LEADER HAD REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S UNSWERVING SUPPORT FOR PLO AND FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ON SOIL OF ITS HOMELAND.

2. ARAFAT SUBSEQUENTLY HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. PLO HAD NOT AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT CEASE-FIRE CALLED FOR BY UNSC RES 425 AND ARAFAT HIMSELF HAD SO INFORMED UNSYG WALDHEIM. PLO HAS ONLY TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED ITS BOMBARDMENT OF ENEMY POSITIONS TO FACILITATE RETURN OF LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN CIVILIAN EVACUEES TO THEIR HOMES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. PLO COMMANDOS WERE THERE UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH LEBANON AND UNIFIL HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES IN AREAS EVACUATED BY ISRAEL. ON CONTRARY, UNIFIL HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REQUESTED TO FACILITATE RESUPPLY OF PLO FORCES. UNIFIL HAS RESPONSIBILITY OF OVERSEEING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AND NOT OF ESTABLISHING SECURITY BELT ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL.

B. RECENT STATEMENT BY LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS IS CONSISTENT WITH RIYADH, CAIRO AND CHTOURA AGREEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON. PLO IS ENTIRELY READY TO COOPERATE WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE AGREEMENTS.

C. PALESTINIAN COMMANDO RAID OUTSIDE TELAVIV LAST MARCH IS ONLY PRETEXT USED BY ISRAEL TO JUSTIFY SOUTHERN LEBANON INCURSION "PLANNED AS LONG AGO AS 1973 WITH PENTAGON HELP AS THEN SECSTATE KISSINGER HAS ADMITTED."

D. PLO WILL NOT AGREE TO MANY ARAB SUMMIT SO LONG AS SADAT ADHERES TO HIS PEACE INITIATIVE WITH ISRAEL.

E. NO PEACE IN MIDEAST IS EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE WITHOUT TAKING LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS INTO ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, ARAFAT ADDED, HE IS "A REALIST" AND PALESTINIAN STATE "WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE ANY DANGER TO ISRAEL."

F. HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY RECENT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ABU DH 01346 131209Z

PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT MIDDLE EAST INASMUCH AS US REGARDS ISRAEL AS ITS "FIFTY-SECOND STATE" (SIC). US WISHES TO IMPOSE ON ARABS TERMS OF SURRENDER AND NOT TO ESTABLISH JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION.

3. COMMENT: WE ASSUME PRINCIPAL REASON FOR ARAFAT VISIT TO UAE AND OTHER GULF STATES AT THIS TIME IS TO OBTAIN ASSURANCE THAT PLO WILL NOT BE COMPELLED TO ADHERE TO RES 425 AND THAT OTHER ARAB LEADERS WILL NOT AGREE TO SUMMIT CONFERENCE SO LONG AS SADAT INITIATIVE IS NOT OFFICIALLY RENOUNCED. ADDITIONAL OR RENEWED FINANCIAL AID MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN AN OBJECTIVE.
DICKMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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